(c) The steps taken to control pollution from the cement factories include:

—Emission limits for cement manufacturing units have been prescribed;

—A time bound programme for installation of effective air pollution control equipment (electrostatic precipitator) has been evolved; and

—The units have been directed to instal chimneys of at least 30 metres height for dispersion of pollutants.

Improvements in postal services

*149. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total strength of postal delivery personnel in 1983, 1984. 1985 and 1986 so far;

(b) what was the volume of postal traffic handled by them during the same period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the post offices are not having adequate staff to cope with the increased postal traffic and volume of work in a majority of post offices; if so, what steps are being contemplated to improve the postal services;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for deterioration in postal services, particularly the delayed deliveries; and

(e) whether Government are considering to provide mopeds or other two wheeler vehicles to the postal delivery staff to enable them to render prompt and effective service; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The total strength of the delivery personnel (Postmen and extra Departmental Delivery Agents) and the volume of main handled during these years was as under:—

Year	No. of Personnel	Traffic handled
1983.	1,39,500	1085 crores
1984.	1,42,100	1138 "
1985.	1,43,300	1198 "
1986.	1,41,600	1211 "

(c) No, Sir. Generally there is no shortage of delivery staff in post offices. As may be seen from the figures of 1983, 1984 and 1985, additional delivery staff have been provided to meet the increased volume mail. However, in 1986, matching provision could not be made due to the existing ban orders on creation of posts Now, orders relaxing the ban. to the extent of creation of posts arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation dismissal/removal or deputation etc. have been issued, and the position is expected to improve.

(d) Delay in delivery of mails does not generally occur due to shortage of delivery staff.

(e) There is no proposal for providing mopeds or any other fast mode of conveyance to the postal staff. However, bicycles are already in use by some of the delivery staff.

गैर-हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों में प्रादेशिक समाचारों का हिन्दी में प्रसारण

*150. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गैर-हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों में

आकाशवाणी के ऐसे कौन-कौन से केन्द्र हैं, जहां से प्रादेशिक समाचार हिन्दी में भी प्रसारित किए जाते हैं; और

(ख) आकाशवाणी के अन्य किन-किन केन्द्रों से ऐसे प्रसारण की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) पोर्ट ब्लेयर हिन्द में क्षेत्रीय समाचार बुलेटिन प्रसारित कर रहा है।

(ख) कोई नहीं, जी।

Amendment of the Pensioner's Act

*151. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Hindu" of 26th October, 1986 under the caption "Pension is a right";

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the 'Pensioners' Act' which is nearly a century old;

(c) whether Government propose to make the payment of interest on accumulated pensions obligatory in case it was not paid within a resonable period; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is, however, no proposal to amend the Pensioner's Act, 1971.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in cases where it is not found possible to sanction final pension at the time of retirement, the rules provide for payment of provisional pension for a period of six months to avoid hardship to the individual.

Safety of BARC plant against Explosions

*152. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 973 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre plant at Bombay is of old Canadian design which has been discarded in Canada; and

(b) if so, in what manner its safety against sudden explosion and leakage of radion, as at Chernobyl, has been assured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The CIRUS reactor at BARC is of Canadian design and is operating satisfactorily. The reactor on whose design CIRUS is based is still operating in Canada.

(b) The nuclear fuel, clad in aluminimum tubes are placed in a reactor vessel. This vessel (called calandria) is placed in a concrete vault. It has an outer containment made of steel. There are many control instruments and devices which ensure safe operation of the reactor and shut it down automatically in case of any abnormality.

Jamming of police communciations net-work in Punjab

*153. SHRI J. P GOYAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the police communications net-work in Punjab is being frequently jammed